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Message Text

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13896 062104Z

73
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /031 W
---------- 055402
R 061626Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5529
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13896

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC (SEC VISIT - NATO - ME)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL

REF: STATE 237945

1. WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEE QUESTION, SECURITY SITUATION IN SYRIA IS ANALAGOUS TO THAT IN LEBANON, ALTHOUGH PALESTINIAN POPULATION CONSIDERABLY SMALLER IN SYRIA AND MORE RESTRICTED IN THEIR MOVEMENT BY SYRIA'S GOVERNMENT. ANY THREAT TO SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD PROBABLY ORIGINATE AMONG DISSIDENT INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL GROUPS OF FEDAYEEN, NOT THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER SYRIAN SECURITY APPARATUS IS VERY LARGE, RELATIVELY EFFICIENT AND HAS NOT HESITATION IN CRACKING DOWN ON FEDAYEEN GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS. AT THIS TIME WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATED ANY PLANS TO DISRUPT THE VISIT.

2. ASIDE FROM PALESTINIANS, A POSSIBLE SECURITY PROBLEM IS POSED BY THE BA'TH PARTY OF IRAQ (BPI) AND ITS ALLIES AMONG EXILED BA'TH PARTY OF SYRIA (BPS) ACTIVISTU, BOTH GROUPS BEING IN OPPOSITION TO THE BPS FACTION NOW RULING SYRIA. A DISRUPTION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD BE TO THEIR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AS AN EMBARRASSMENT OF THE ASSAD REGIME IN DAMASCUS. AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THESE GROUPS ARE PLANNING TO FORMENT ANY DISORDERS AT THE TIME OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP; BUFFUM

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Type: TE
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